



Docket No. 522-1730

**DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR PATENT APPLICATION**

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled VACUUM TIGHT COUPLING FOR TUBE SECTIONS, the specification of which:

\_\_\_\_\_ is attached hereto.

  x   was filed on December 27, 2000 as Application Serial No. 09/720,744 and was amended on \_\_\_\_\_ (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56(a).

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified

09720744-054181



Robert F.I. Conte, Registration No. 20,354, Timothy J. Engling, Registration No. 39,970, Peter J. Shakula, Registration No. 40,808 and Gregory B. Beggs, Registration No. 19,286, as my attorneys to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected herewith. It is requested that all communications be directed to Glenn W. Ohlson of Lee, Mann, Smith, McWilliams, Sweeney & Ohlson, P.O. Box 2786, Chicago, Illinois 60690-2786, telephone number (312) 368-1300.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Full name of sole or first inventor: Wilmert De Bosscher

Signature Bosscher Date Feb. 22, '61

Country of Residence: Belgium

Country of Citizenship: Belgium

Post Office and Residence Address: Noordhoutstraat 22

B-9031 Drongen Belgium BEX

Full name of second inventor: Dirk Cnockaert

Signature Cnockaert Date Feb 22, '61

Country of Residence: Belgium

Country of Citizenship: Belgium

Post Office and Residence Address: Izegemstraat 80

B-9800 Deinze Belgium BEX

300 Full name of third inventor: Erwin Lootens

Signature [Signature] Date Feb. 22, '01

Country of Residence: Belgium

Country of Citizenship: Belgium

Post Office and Residence Address: Mariakerksesteenweg 269

B-9031 Drongen Belgium BEX

50 Full name of fourth inventor: Pascal Verheyen

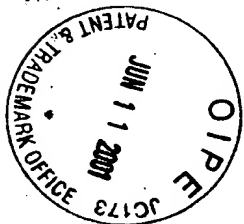
Signature [Signature] Date Feb 22, '01

Country of Residence: Belgium

Country of Citizenship: Belgium

Post Office and Residence Address: Provinciebaan 102

B-9890 Gavere Belgium BEX



below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

**PRIOR FOREIGN APPLICATION(S)**

Country	Number	Date Filed	Priority Claimed	
			Yes	No
Europe	98202183.4	June 29, 1998	X	

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code Section 120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, Section 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application.

Application Serial No.	Filing Date	Status
PCT/EP99/04085	June 28, 1999	Pending

12- And I hereby appoint Glenn W. Ohlson, Registration No. 28,455, Thomas E. Smith, Registration No. 18,243, Dennis M. McWilliams, Registration No. 25,195, James R. Sweeney, Registration No. 18,721, William M. Lee, Jr., Registration No. 26,935, David C. Brezina, Registration No. 34,128, Jeffrey R. Gray, Registration No. 33,391, Gerald S. Geren, Registration No. 24,528,